

BS01286

U.S. Application No. 10/026,704 Art Unit 2661
Response to March 20, 2006 Office Action

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancel)
2. (Cancel)
3. (Cancel)
4. (Cancel)
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15. (Cancel)
16. (Cancel)
17. (Cancel)
18. (Cancel)
19. (Currently Amended) A set top box integrated with, or communicating with, a television, the set top box comprising:
 - a first input receiving an audio signal content;
 - a first output adapted to be received by the television;
 - a second output adapted to be received by a second set top box;
 - a second input adapted to receive audible message information ~~from a user~~; and
 - a back channel communications path that is different from the first input,

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wherein a volume of the audio signal is reduced below a volume of the audible message information ~~the message information is sent out of the second output.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The set top box according to claim 19, wherein the message information comprises at least one of ~~audio information~~, video information, text information, and a pre-formatted message.
21. (Currently Amended) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the audible message information comprises at least one of ~~audio information~~, video information, text information, and a pre-formatted message.
22. (Currently Amended) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the ~~memory stores instructions for processing signals from an internal video camera~~ audio content is processed for an audio channel and the audible message information is processed for another audio channel.
23. (Currently Amended) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the memory stores ~~instructions for processing signals from an internal microphone~~ pre-made voice message.
24. (Original) The set top box according to claim 19, wherein the message information is retrieved from a memory device.
25. (Currently Amended) The set top box according to claim 19, further comprising a ~~video camera~~ memory storing pre-made voice messages.
26. (Currently Amended) The set top box according to claim 19, further comprising a ~~microphone~~ message waiting indicator.
27. (Currently Amended) The set top box according to claim 19, further comprising another input adapted to receive information from a keyboard.

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28. (Currently Amended) The set top box according to claim 19, wherein the first input also receives a video signal and the set top box modifies the video signal to display a text message further comprising another input adapted to receive information from a video camera.
29. (Currently Amended) The set top box according to claim 19, wherein the audio signal is processed for an audio channel and the audible message information is processed for another audio channel further comprising another input adapted to receive information from a microphone.
30. (Currently Amended) A set top box integrated with, or communicating with, a television, the set top box comprising memory storing instructions for performing the steps:
- receiving audio content via a first input;
providing a first output to the television;
communicating via a back channel communications path that is different from the first input;
providing a second output adapted to be received by a second set top box; and
receiving audible message information ~~from a user~~ via a second input,
- wherein the message information is sent out of the second output a volume of the audio content is reduced below a volume of the audible message information.
31. (Previously Presented) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the memory stores instructions for receiving signals from a keyboard input.